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RURAL DISTRICT OF HAILSHAM

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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1953

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L. A. COLLINS, M.B., B.CH., D.P.M., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
OF THE  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**  
TO THE  
**HAILSHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**1953**

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Hailsham Rural District Council.*

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1953.

This year was a very satisfactory one from the public health point of view. In this district there were no cases of typhoid, paratyphoid or food poisoning, and for the sixth year in succession there was no case of diphtheria.

In the body of the report, under Vital Statistics, it will be noted that there is a significant increase in the figure for the death rate of the district. This rise is due to a change by the Registrar General in the method of allocation of transferable deaths within districts. For the first time this year all deaths at Hellingly Mental Hospital have been assigned to this district. If an adjustment be made for this distorting factor then the death rate will be found to be comparable with that of recent years.

I am indebted to all members of the staff of the Public Health Department for their keenness and hard work throughout the year and special mention must be made of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. E. J. J. Chapman, who has devoted so many arduous years to the public health service.

May I take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their support during the year.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

L. A. COLLINS.

Medical Officer of Health.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

### MEASLES :

This district experienced the largest epidemic of measles for many years, there being 688 notified cases compared with 124 in 1952 and 581 in 1951, which was another epidemic year. The majority of these cases occurred in the first three months of the year directly following on the increased incidence in December of the previous year. Recent research has been undertaken with regard to the infectiousness of certain common epidemic diseases by assessing the incidence of cases resulting from every exposure of a susceptible in the home. The infectiousness of measles has been reported to be 75% compared with 61% in chickenpox and 31% in mumps. During this epidemic I was of the impression that the infectiousness of measles was even higher than 75% being nearer 90% but sufficient figures were not obtained to be regarded as significant.

### WHOOPING COUGH :

There were 197 notifications of whooping cough compared with 54 in the previous year.

### SCARLET FEVER :

Eighty-two cases of scarlet fever were notified compared with 78 in the previous year. As has been the experience of recent years, most of these cases were very mild. Only 12 cases were admitted to hospital and the general policy now is to treat the cases at home whenever possible.

### DIPHTHERIA :

For the sixth year in succession there was not one case of diphtheria in this district.

### TYPHOID FEVER :

There were no cases of typhoid or paratyphoid fever during the course of the year. Three chronic typhoid carriers still remained under observation at Hellingly Hospital and the Eastbourne Isolation Hospital as an aftermath of the small outbreak at Hellingly Hospital in 1951.

### DYSENTERY :

There was a small outbreak of Sonne Dysentery in a Residential Nursery School commencing in February. The first three cases were admitted to the Eastbourne Isolation Hospital in the hope of avoiding the spread of infection. However bacteriological investigations revealed the presence of other cases

in the school, all of which were very mild and some almost symptomless. Arrangements were made for the prophylactic treatment of all members of the staff and the children in the school and the school was declared free of infection by the beginning of May. In all there had been 10 notified cases among the children and 3 among the staff. No case gave rise to any anxiety and although this disease is very trivial it can be very difficult to eradicate when it affects a residential institution.

## ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS (INFANTILE PARALYSIS):

There were 5 cases of Paralytic and 2 cases of Non-Paralytic Poliomyelitis during the year.

The first case in March was a girl aged seven years. This was a rapidly progressive case and the child died in the Hastings Isolation Hospital two days after admission.

The second case in April was a boy aged fifteen years. This was a moderately severe case with some residual paralysis.

The remaining five cases occurred in the period from August to October. All these cases were very mild and in fact one case, a boy aged five years, was not diagnosed until after the acute phase of the disease was over and he was not admitted to hospital.

## FOOD POISONING :

There were no cases of food poisoning in this district during the year.

## VACCINATION RECORDS RECEIVED.

1952	Vaccinations	303	Re-vaccinations	86	Total	389
1953	Vaccinations	240	Re-vaccinations	91	Total	331

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

It is satisfactory to note that although this is the sixth year in succession without a case of diphtheria in the district, there has been no appreciable fall in the immunisation rate in 1953. By comparing the figures for the last three years it will be seen that the number of complete courses administered has slightly decreased after the fresh improvement in 1952, whilst the number of refresher doses given during the year is the highest in any one year since the scheme was started.

1951	Complete Course	305	Refresher Doses	654
1952	Complete Course	433	Refresher Doses	851
1953	Complete Course	357	Refresher Doses	958

I have personally conducted frequent clinics at Hailsham, Heathfield, Polegate and Herstmonceux, and occasional clinics at Pevensey, Chiddingly, Maynards Green, Bodle Street Green, Arlington, Punnetts Town, Warbleton, Cross-in-Hand, East Hoathly, Hankham, Ninfield, Westham and Willingdon.

The Ministry of Health in stressing the need to keep up the immunity of the child population by means of refresher doses, required a new form of Annual Return, showing separate figures for the children inoculated during the last five years and for children last inoculated more than five years ago, whether by primary or refresher inoculations. As will be seen from the table below, the immunity index, which is calculated on the proportion of children who have been inoculated within the last five years to my estimated mid-year child population, is 54.8% for the 1-4 years group and 70.2% for the 5-14 years group. These figures are considered to be fairly satisfactory but it is important that the public should be incessantly reminded of the necessity of protecting their children by diphtheria immunisation. In interpreting this index it must be borne in mind that of children under one at the end of the year only one third have attained the age of eight months (when immunisation is normally given) and that, even if all of this group aged 8 months and over were immunised, the index among them would be only 33 per cent.

Age at 31.12.53. i.e. Born in Year	Under 1 1953	1—4 1952-1949	5—9 1948-1944	10—14 1943-1939	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of in- jections. . . (Whether pri- mary or re- fresher)	32	1272	2517	2466	6287
1949-1953 . .	32	1272	1922	1369	4595
1948 or earlier	—	—	595	1097	1692
Estimated mid-year child population . .	430	2320	4690		7440
Immunity Index	7.4%	54.8%	70.2%		61.8%



## NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS 1948 and 1951 :

One order was made under Section 1(3) of the National Assistance (Amendment) Act 1951, for the removal of an ill woman living under insanitary circumstances to St. Helen's Hospital, Hastings. An ill man who was living with her accepted voluntary admission to hospital at the same time.

Several other cases of aged or infirm persons living under insanitary circumstances have been investigated but in no other case was formal action under the above Acts deemed necessary.

## VITAL STATISTICS :

The death rate for the district for the last five years is as follows :—

	<i>Crude Death Rate</i>	<i>Comparability Factor</i>	<i>Corrected Death Rate</i>
1949	12.3 per thousand	0.74	9.1 per thousand
1950	13.4 per thousand	0.74	9.9 per thousand
1951	13.2 per thousand	0.73	9.6 per thousand
1952	12.5 per thousand	0.73	9.1 per thousand
1953	16.5 per thousand	0.73	12.1 per thousand

Thus there is an apparent sudden rise in the death rate of the district in 1953. This is not the truth as it is due to a statistical fallacy.

From 1st January 1953, on instructions from the Registrar General, all deaths at Hellingly Mental Hospital have been assigned to this district. In 1951 there were 157 deaths at Hellingly Mental Hospital of which number 141 were classed as outward transfers to other districts. In 1952 of 181 deaths at Hellingly Mental Hospital 163 were classed as outward transfers. In 1953 there were 139 deaths at Hellingly Mental Hospital all of which have been assigned to this district. Based on the proportions of the previous two years about 125 of these would have been classed as outward transfers. Deducting this number from the total number of deaths the crude death rate for 1953 would be 13.1 per thousand, and the corrected death rate 9.5 per thousand. These figures are comparable with the figures of recent years.

It seems that some special adjustment should be made to the comparability factor to make allowance for these additional deaths which are now assigned to this district.

The corrected birth rate is 13.4 per thousand, compared with 15.3 for the whole of England and Wales.

The infant mortality rate is 17.9 per thousand registered live births, which is very satisfactory compared with a record low infant mortality rate of 26.8 for the whole of the country.

### STATISTICS

Area in Acres .. .. .	94,668
Census Population (1951) .. .. .	36,916
Population estimated to middle year .. .. .	36,340
Number of inhabited houses .. .. .	11,844
Rateable Value .. .. .	£313,273
Sum represented by Penny Rate .. .. .	£1,249. 16. 9
Birth Rate per 1,000 population (not corrected)	12.3
Birth Rate per 1,000 population (corrected) ..	13.4
Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 Registered Live Births .. .. .	17.9
Total Deaths per 1,000 (not corrected) ..	16.5
Total Deaths per 1,000 (corrected) .. .. .	12.1
Senile mortality as percentage of Total Deaths (65 and over) .. .. .	77.8

### BIRTHS :

Legitimate : Total	427	Males	210	Females	217
Illegitimate : Total	20	Males	15	Females	5

### STILLBIRTHS :

Legitimate : Total	9	Males	5	Females	4
Illegitimate : Total	1	Males	0	Females	1

### Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :

Total	8	Males	2	Females	6
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### COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS

	<i>Birth Rate</i>	<i>Infantile Mortality</i>	<i>Death Rate</i>
Hailsham Rural ..	13.4	17.9	12.1
England and Wales..	15.5	26.8	11.4

### CAUSES OF DEATH

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory .. .. .	5	3
2. Tuberculosis, other .. .. .	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease .. .. .	1	1
4. Diphtheria .. .. .	—	—
5. Whooping Cough .. .. .	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections .. .. .	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis .. .. .	—	1
8. Measles .. .. .	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	2	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	2	4
11. Malignant neoplasm, Lung, bronchus	9	—



12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	—	8
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	.. ..	—	5
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	.. .. .	20	28
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	.. ..	—	—
16.	Diabetes	.. .. .	—	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	27	45
18.	Coronary disease, angina	.. ..	33	41
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	..	4	4
20.	Other heart disease	.. .. .	61	75
21.	Other circulatory disease	.. ..	11	17
22.	Influenza	.. .. .	8	7
23.	Pneumonia	.. .. .	18	30
24.	Bronchitis	.. .. .	12	14
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system		—	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	6	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..	2	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	.. ..	4	3
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	.. ..	5	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	.. ..	3	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases		24	23
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	.. ..	3	2
34.	All other accidents	.. .. .	7	8
35.	Suicide	.. .. .	2	4
36.	Homicide and operations of war	..	1	—
			270	330

### PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health (part-time) also Assistant School Medical Officer for East Sussex County Council.	Dr. L. A. Collins, M.B., B.Ch. D.P.M., D.P.H.
Senior Sanitary and Meat and Food Inspector.	E. J. J. Chapman, F.G.S., M.S.I.A.
Additional Sanitary Inspectors.	M. F. Warman L. E. Scott R. R. Creasey
Sanitary Assistant and Rodent Operator	J. F. Stanford
Rodent Operator	.. .. R. Cousins
Clerical Assistants	.. .. R. S. Oak Mrs. M. O. Stevens Miss R. M. Savage

## Cases of Infectious Diseases in Age Groups

Notifiable Diseases	Under 1 yr.	1-2 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15-24 yrs.	25 yrs. & over	Total
Scarlet Fever ..	—	2	16	53	8	3	—	82
Whooping Cough	14	30	55	80	9	3	6	197
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	1	3	2	1	—	7
Measles .. ..	2	85	145	373	49	11	23	688
Pneumonia ..	3	—	2	2	2	2	11	22
Dysentery ..	—	4	6	—	—	3	—	13
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	8	9
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3

## Cases Notified or admitted to Isolation Hospital and Total Deaths

Disease	Total Notified	Admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever .. ..	82	12	—
Whooping Cough ..	197	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	7	6	1
Measles .. ..	688	—	—
Pneumonia .. ..	22	—	—
Dysentery .. ..	13	3	—
Erysipelas .. ..	9	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	3	—	—
Other Observation Cases..	—	4	—

## Number of Cases Removed to Isolation Hospital Each Month

Disease	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Scarlet Fever .. ..	3		4	1	3					1		
Poliomyelitis .. ..			1	1				2	1	1		
Whooping Cough .. ..				1								
Sonne Dysentery .. ..		3										
Other Observation Cases ..	1				1	1			1			
<b>TOTAL .. ..</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

## Tuberculosis

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Res- piratory		Non-Res- piratory		Res- piratory		Non-Res- piratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—4 years ..	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
5—14 years ..	—	1	3	1	—	—	—	—
15—24 years ..	4	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
25—34 years ..	5	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
35—44 years ..	1	2	—	1	1	—	—	—
45—54 years ..	1	4	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—64 years ..	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
65 and upwards ..	2	1	—	—	2	1	—	—
<b>Total .. ..</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

## Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

### WATER SUPPLY.

In view of the comparative paucity of rainfall throughout the year the natural resources, which are dependant on the geological structure of the area, have been somewhat taxed. In this district a large tract is on Weald Clay, an extremely poor medium for water supplies, and but for the fact that on the southern boundary there is chalk with its underlying greensand water belt, and on the northern boundary the Ashdown Sand beds, the district would be in difficulty for permanent and wholesome supplies.

Three water companies serve the district, namely the Eastbourne Waterworks Company, the Heathfield and District Water Company, and the Bexhill Corporation. Reports on the chemical and bacteriological analyses have been consistently satisfactory throughout the year.

Where wells or springs continue to serve, these have been the subject of periodical inspections and examinations, and where households have been in difficulty, the emergency water delivery scheme has operated and met the need. By means of a Dodge vehicle fitted with an 800 gallon tank, and a Fordson dual-purpose lorry with a 450 gallon receptacle this service delivered 728,500 gallons during the year for domestic use travelling a distance of 12,286 miles. This was an increase of 101,800 gallons over the 1952 deliveries.

*North Western Parishes Scheme.* Prolonged negotiations have been proceeding to provide a main supply to the Parishes in the Wealden area, namely—Alciston, Arlington, Berwick, Chalvington, Chiddingly, Lullington, East Hoathly, Hellingly, Laughton, Ripe and Selmeston. In view of the magnitude of the scheme a decision could not be reached within the year but for the provision of the hamlet of Halland within the Parish of East Hoathly, a start was made in laying 1082 yards of 4 in. main, a temporary supply being taken from the Uckfield R.D.C.

*Bodle Street Village.* During the year the Council agreed to the extension of 3498 yards of 4 in. main at an estimated cost of £5,884 to serve the hamlet of Bodle Street, which comprises 56 houses, 1 school and 8 farms and it was hoped to have commenced work on this scheme before the end of the year, but this was not

possible till the spring of 1954, due to the necessity for the adjustment of boundaries of the water undertakers. A further petition was received from seven farms beyond Bodle Street but this could not be entertained before an order under Section 10 of The Water Act 1944 had been made. An application for such an adjustment was made by the Water Undertakers during the year.

*Coggers Cross, Hellingly. Appeal.* Following receipt of a petition from twelve residents in this area for the provision of a piped water supply at an estimated cost of £9,066, an enquiry was held at the Council Offices by an Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. In view of the high costs and the comparatively few users, this Ministry decided that the application was not a reasonable one within the meaning of the Water Act.

## EXTENSION OF MAINS.

In addition to the preliminary work in connection with the preparation of the North Western Parishes Scheme referred to above, there has been considerable activity by the respective Water Undertakers. The following is a summary of extensions carried out during the year :—

*Eastbourne Waterworks Company.* Extensions : (1) Eastdean Downland Estate, Eastdean. (2) Halland, East Hoathly. (3) Carters Corner and The Butts, Hailsham. (4) London Road, Hellingly. (5) Hailsham Road, Southfield and Brightling Road, Polegate. (6) Stone Cross, Westham. (7) Oldfield Road and Gorringe Valley Road, Willingdon.

*Bexhill Corporation.* Extensions : (1) Hooe Village Hall to Castlehurst Farm and School Farm to Highlands, Hooe. (2) Butlers Farm to Chantlers Farm, Lower Road, Herstmonceux.

*Heathfield Water Company.* Extensions : (1) Waldron Village to Foxhunt Green—1,565 yards. (2) An additional filter bed has been installed at the Pumping Station and the output of the booster pump upon which supplies to Heathfield and Waldron depend has been increased.

*Distribution of Supplies.* The following table details the distribution of piped supplies showing that approximately 84.3% of the population is provided with main water.

Parish	Estimated Population Supplied by Public or Private Main	No. of Houses Supplied by Public Main	By Stand- Pipe	By Private Main
Alciston ..	124	—	—	37
Alfriston ..	626	197	10	—
Arlington ..	201	43	25	—
Berwick ..	87	—	—	30
Chalvington ..	—	—	—	—
Chiddingly ..	—	—	—	—
Eastdean ..	705	229	—	—
East Hoathly ..	33	11	—	—
Folkington ..	32	9	—	—
Friston ..	400	133	—	—
Hailsham ..	5185	1730	—	—
Heathfield ..	2875	925	—	—
Hellingly ..	2620	390	—	—
Herstmonceux ..	1195	385	10	—
Hooe ..	196	41	—	24
Horam ..	1198	401	—	—
Jevington ..	141	10	37	—
Laughton ..	—	—	—	—
Litlington ..	97	—	—	37
Lullington ..	19	4	—	2
Ninfield ..	976	324	—	—
Pevensey ..	2168	724	—	—
Polegate ..	3990	1330	—	—
Ripe ..	—	—	—	—
Selmeston ..	—	—	—	—
Waldron ..	2269	736	—	—
Warbleton ..	184	59	—	—
Wartling ..	376	122	—	—
Westdean ..	92	22	7	—
Westham ..	1795	590	10	—
Willingdon ..	2871	957	—	—
Wilmington ..	169	60	—	—
Total ..	30,624	9,432	99	130



## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Considerable works have been carried out in connection with extensions of existing sewers to provide for housing schemes and existing houses and for this purpose schemes were included for premises at Wannock Road, Willingdon and Eastbourne Road and St. John's Road, Polegate. These were completed in the Spring of 1954.

Sewer maintenance works have also been carried out at Hailsham and to a lesser degree at East Hoathly.

Other works include progress in the preparation of detailed drawings in connection with the Polegate Willingdon Scheme and negotiations for a site for sewage disposal works at Alfriston and it is hoped that this village scheme will soon be undertaken.

Arrangements made for the regular supervision and maintenance of numerous small sewage disposal plants for which the Council is responsible by a gang of workmen is a progressive step and is showing good results. Plans have also been prepared and Ministry's approval sought to major improvement and replacement works at Pevensey Bay sea outfall.

Attention has been given by palliative measures only to those villages or hamlets which have no outfall works and are drained into streams, but it is earnestly hoped that the time is not far distant when this inadequate and offensive means of disposal will be rectified.

## RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The records of inspections given elsewhere in this report show that much activity and progress has been made in the prevention of pollution and the staff have spared no pains in advising and assisting farmers and others to improve their system or to provide them where there were none before discharging drainage into streams. In this, co-operation with the Officers of the River Board has contributed to a marked improvement in the state of some watercourses and has stressed the importance of the conservation of our streams and their protection against all avoidable contamination.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING—HOUSE REFUSE REMOVAL.

The removal of domestic refuse is undertaken and covers the whole of the Rural District divided into six areas by weekly or fortnightly calls according to the density of those areas. This involves the use of six Dennis Dustless Loaders and a Fordson Dual-purpose vehicle fitted when required as a relief Dustless Loader during overhaul of the Dennis vehicles. A staff of twenty-five workmen, including area Foremen, is employed and in spite of the addition of large numbers of houses, it has been possible not only to cover the area effectively but also by re-organisation to keep pace with the work and to reduce the number of collectors. There is no provision for the removal of Trade Waste and no serious difficulty by traders in its removal or disposal. In the spring of the year, to facilitate the removal of refuse from the Mental Hospital, the Council provided a trailer for retention on the premises and for its removal thus avoiding double handling of the refuse.

## REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Refuse is removed from various parts of the District to the most conveniently situated of four principal sites where as far as is practicable controlled tipping is practised and in some cases burning is resorted to. The former method is facilitated by the use of a Chaseside Excavator, the use of which after excavating soil and consolidating the covered refuse, has already greatly extended the life of the sites and has assisted in maintaining the tipping faces and their approaches comparatively free from pests and vermin. A short extension of the water main enabled a supply to be available at the workmen's hut at Red Dyke Tip, Stone Cross which has proved to be invaluable.

## MAINTENANCE DEPOT.

The maintenance of the seven refuse vehicles, the emergency water tanker and the three cesspool emptiers is undertaken at the Council's Depot at Leap Cross, originally intended to house four of the vehicles but the exigencies of the services have necessitated expansion of the workshop and plant with the result that the garaging there of more than three vehicles is now impracticable and although the Council have considered several schemes for the provision of an enlarged Central Depot, no decision has yet been reached and the problem continues to give some anxiety. During the year several of the vehicles underwent a major overhaul and as

a result a great saving in maintenance costs and increase in the life of the vehicles has taken place. An extension of Swan Barn as a provisional depot was undertaken and made to house two vehicles, whilst a further two are being garaged at another site on very precarious tenure.

## DISTRICT SALVAGE SCHEME.

For some years the Council continued their scheme commenced during the National Emergency and contributed much in the recovery of raw materials from house refuse collections and special appeals, but owing to the slump large quantities of paper and cardboard had accumulated for the removal of which no merchant would offer a price and in consequence and through the absence of sufficient storage space, collections of these substances were discontinued. As a renewed interest was shown by the end of the year, collections were resumed up to the limit of the existing staff's capacity to handle them and advantage was taken to put the material into the market as the demand improved. During the year the sum realized from salvage amounted to £654 9s. 11d.

## CESSPOOL CLEANSING.

The Council for some years have undertaken to empty the cesspools in the Parishes of Heathfield, Horam and Waldron, the cost of which is met out of rates.

To meet this need in other parts of the district the Council operate a District Cesspool Emptying vehicle at a charge to the applicants, and in consequence of the increased demand for this service, a further Dennis vehicle was purchased during the year. These vehicles have fulfilled an urgent need and have rendered a continuous and beneficial service. The following record details something of their activities in the respective areas :—

	<i>Cesspools</i>	<i>Loads</i>
District Scheme .. .. .	1,248	2,267
Heathfield, Horam and Waldron Scheme	1,651	2,462

## REMOVAL OF NIGHT SOIL.

The removal of night soil is carried out in one built-up area only, namely Alfriston, where its replacement by a water-carriage

system is overdue. Although this is gravitationally possible, the ineffectual sewers and outfalls have also demanded considerable attention and as the Council are upon the point of concluding negotiations for the purchase of site for the latter, it is hoped that a scheme for redrainage of the village will soon materialize, thus enabling the present primitive practice to possess a place only in the history of this old-world village.

## FACTORIES ACT.

All factories in the district are inspected regularly and the many market gardens are also visited to ensure the hygienic handling of fruit and vegetables. From inspections of bakehouses the chief cause of complaint has been found to be lack of lime-washing or painting.

## RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

As there are no manufacturers in the district, there has been no call for registration or licencing under this Act.

## SHOPS ACT 1950 and FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

The routine inspection of food premises, summarised in the table below, controls these places, but attainment of a high standard of sanitary accommodation and the provision of a constant supply of hot water for washing is hampered by the lack of a proper water supply in many areas. The Clean Food Byelaws are generally well observed, though hawkers seem reticent to have their names and addresses "legibly and conspicuously displayed."

## Summary of Inspections of Food Premises

				<i>Number in District</i>	<i>Total Number of Inspections made</i>
Bakehouses	..	..	..	20	81
Bakers Shops	..	..	..	15	29
Butchers Shops	..	..	..	32	266
Cafes and Snack Bars	..	..	..	66	255
Fish Shops	..	..	..	14	91
Greengrocers	..	..	..	10	74
Grocers and General Stores	..			127	273
Hawkers	..	..	..	20	30
Ice Cream Sellers	..	..		95	204
Public Houses and Guest Houses				101	356
				500	1659

### HOUSING.

The urgent need for more houses is stressed by the fact that at the end of the year there were more than 600 applicants on the list for council houses. The allocation of houses is in the hands of the Selection of Tenants Sub-Committee and detailed attention is given to the merits of each individual case.

While appreciable progress has been made in reconditioning old and low category houses, much of this is merely palliative, and it is likely that a large number of those revealed in the original survey as being in need of replacement will still have to be dealt with before there can be any relaxation of the building programme. Since decontrol of building materials private enterprise has contributed much to the benefit of this district, but up to the end of the year very little progress has been made in improvements with Grant Aid.

During the year 76 new Council Houses and 8 Flats were completed and occupied.

### HOUSING STATISTICS

Number of houses demolished during year as a result of formal or informal procedure	..	..	..	..	4
Number of houses closed in pursuance of an Undertaking under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936 and still in force					15



Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit during year as a result of informal action under Public Health and Housing Acts .. .. .	162
Number of houses made fit after service of formal Notices under the Housing Act 1936 .. .. .	3
Number of houses made fit after service of formal Notices under the Public Health Acts .. .. .	1

## FLY INFESTATION OF BEACHES.

There was a medium infestation of Seaweed Flies, *Coelopa Frigida*, on the beaches at Pevensey Bay at the end of October and the beginning of November but the numbers were not so great as on many other south coast beaches. A commercial firm gave a demonstration of methods of spraying the beaches against this pest in early December but by this time most of the flies had already disappeared spontaneously. It was felt that abnormal climatic conditions in the autumn had been the chief factor in the production of these excessive numbers of flies and that there was no reason to predict a similar combination of circumstances to recur in the following year. Meanwhile careful watch would be kept over the conditions on the beaches.

## MILK AND DAIRIES.

During the year a total of 70 samples of milk were taken and sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Brighton, for biological examination and 55 samples were submitted for the Methylene Blue test. The results are tabulated below.

### BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

	No. of Samples
Infected with <i>M. tuberculosis</i> .. .. .	1
Infected with <i>Brucella abortus</i> .. .. .	5
Satisfactory .. .. .	63
No result guinea pig died .. .. .	1
	<hr/>
	70
	<hr/>



## METHYLENE BLUE TEST

			<i>Ungraded</i>	<i>T.T.</i>	<i>Pasteurised</i>
Samples taken	..	..	28	22	5
Satisfactory	..	..	27	18	5
Unsatisfactory	..	..	1	4	0

In addition to the above, reports were also received from other Authorities of samples of milk produced in this area. These are summarised below.

			<i>No. of Samples</i>
Infected with <i>M. tuberculosis</i>	..	..	3
Infected with <i>Brucella abortus</i>	..	..	19
Infected with <i>Brucella melitensis</i>	..	..	1
Infected with <i>Streptococcal mastitis</i>	..	..	1
			—
			24
			—

Three cows were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order from herds producing milk infected with tuberculosis. It is satisfactory to report that where *Brucella abortus* has been isolated the owners of the cows have taken advantage of the department's offer to assist in locating the offending animals and a total of 466 quarter samples have been submitted for this purpose. In this matter the local veterinary surgeons have been most co-operative and helpful. As an example of the persistence of infection with *Brucella abortus* there was a T.T. herd found infected in June. Quarter samples showed four cows to be secreting this organism. Repeated follow-up quarter samples still revealed infection in this herd at the end of the year.

In the case of milk infected with *Brucella melitensis*, quarter samples were taken from the herd of five cows. Two were found to be secreting *Brucella melitensis* and two *Brucella abortus*. These results were confirmed by the Veterinary Research Station, Weybridge, and two cows were slaughtered under the *Brucella melitensis* order of 1940.

Undulant fever in man is caused by infection with *Brucella melitensis* or *Brucella abortus*. This is not a notifiable disease but I had asked general practitioners to keep me informed of any cases. Only one case was brought to my knowledge during the year, and on investigation this had clearly been contracted in India. As this disease is so rarely contracted in this country, despite the fact that so many cows are infested with *Brucella* organisms, I am of the opinion that the type of *Brucella* found in this country may have a lower virulence than that found abroad.

At the end of the year distribution of milk to householders in this district remained in the hands of 29 producer-retailers and 18 distributors.

## FOOD INSPECTIONS.

The easing of food controls generally, in conjunction with the high cost of animal feeding stuffs, has had its influence on the reduction of the number of "self-supplier" animals slaughtered.

At the end of the year there were eleven slaughterhouses and one knacker yard licensed under Section 57 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938. No action of a formal nature was taken in respect of cleanliness or structural conditions.

Following an outbreak of myxomatosis at Alciston a watch was kept on fresh rabbits sold in the area.

The disposal of unsound food by burial on the refuse tips has been continued except in the case of certain rationed foods which have to be returned through trade channels.

Although Clean Food Byelaws are in force, no formal action has been taken, but the attention of food handlers is drawn to them.

The number of premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream remains at two, in both cases none is for wholesale. There are 95 premises registered for the sale of ice cream and in addition there are 36 catering establishments selling ice-cream.

## DETAILS OF MEAT FOUND UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

Total No. of animals inspected :	
(1 heifer, 4 calves, 3 sheep and 222 pigs)	230
Total weight of carcasses inspected .. ..	45,740 lbs.
Total weight of unsound meat with-held ..	462 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.

### *Abscesses*

English Beef .. ..	18 lbs.
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### *Bonetaint and Bruising*

English Hindquarter Beef (part)	72 lbs.
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*Bonetaint and Decomposition*

English Hindquarter (part)	44 lbs.	
Australian Ox Beef ..	51 lbs.	
Loin and Chump Mutton	25 lbs.	
	<hr/>	120 lbs.

*Congestion*

2 Pigs Lungs .. ..	5 lbs.
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*Decomposition*

Loin of English Mutton ..	17 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	
English Beef .. ..	133 lbs.	
	<hr/>	150 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.

*Distomatosis*

1 Bovine Liver .. ..	7 lbs.
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*Fever and Immaturity*

2 Pigs carcasses and organs .. ..	48 lbs.
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*Fly Blown and Decomposed*

Parcel of Lambs Sweetbreads	2 lbs.	
5 Sheep Heads .. ..	15 lbs.	
	<hr/>	17 lbs.

*Pneumonia and Cirrhosis*

1 Pigs Pluck .. ..	8 lbs.
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*Pneumonia*

1 Bovine Lungs .. ..	15 lbs.
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*Pericarditis*

1 Pigs Heart .. ..	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
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*Tuberculosis*

1 Pigs Crowfat .. ..	1 lb.
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# Summary of Cattle, Sheep and Pigs Slaughtered and Inspected

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
No. killed .. ..	1	—	7	9	240
No. inspected ..	1	—	4	3	222
<i>All diseases, except Tuberculosis</i> Whole carcasses con- demned .. ..	—	—	—	—	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	1	—	—	1	2
% of No. inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis .. ..	100	—	—	33.3	1.8
<i>Tuberculosis only</i> Whole carcasses con- demned .. ..	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	—	—	—	—	1
% of No. inspected affected .. ..	—	—	—	—	0.45

# MISCELLANEOUS UNSOUND FOOD DEALT WITH BY THIS DEPARTMENT

	<i>Foodstuff</i>	<i>Weight in lbs.</i>
Fish .. .. .		59 $\frac{1}{4}$
Soup .. .. .		2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Tinned Milk .. .. .		33 $\frac{1}{4}$
Sausages and Bacon .. .. .		88 $\frac{1}{4}$
Tinned Meats .. .. .		158
Tinned Fruits .. .. .		181 $\frac{1}{2}$
Tinned Vegetables .. .. .		23 $\frac{1}{2}$
Jam, Honey and Marmalade .. .. .		31 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cheese .. .. .		66 $\frac{3}{4}$
22 Dozen Eggs .. .. .		20 $\frac{1}{2}$
Butter .. .. .		$\frac{1}{2}$
Gravy Browning .. .. .		6
Cocoa and Bournvita .. .. .		8 $\frac{3}{4}$
Sweets .. .. .		234
		<hr/>
		914 $\frac{1}{4}$
		<hr/>

## RODENT CONTROL.

Warfarin continues to be the best method of control for rats in private dwellings and business premises, whilst the use of Sorex D (containing Dicoumarin) has proved to be the most successful means of control for mice which have been very prevalent during the year. The other well established forms of poisons still prove to be the most economical and successful on refuse tips.

With Warfarin now being obtainable from most chemists, many occupiers, especially of agricultural premises, are themselves successfully treating their own properties for rats.

No test baiting of sewers has been carried out this year.

The number of properties found to be infested with rats and mice and treated by this authority (excluding Local Authority properties, refuse tips and sewage works, etc.) was 534. All refuse tips and sewage works are regularly inspected and treated as required. In all eighteen treatments have been carried out on such properties.

# SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS

Housing Acts .. .. .	309
Housing Acts Reinspections .. .. .	277
Complaints.. .. .	153
Public Health Nuisances .. .. .	333
Public Health Nuisances Reinspections .. .. .	352
Pollution of Watercourses .. .. .	164
Keeping of Animals, Birds, etc. .. .. .	73
Offensive Accumulations .. .. .	62
Drains and Sewers Inspected .. .. .	332
Drainage Tested .. .. .	106
Closet Accommodation .. .. .	59
Verminous Premises dealt with .. .. .	44
Infectious Diseases .. .. .	39
Rooms Disinfected .. .. .	57
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc. .. .. .	301
Rats and Mice Destruction .. .. .	703
Schools .. .. .	6
Markets .. .. .	30
Public Cleansing .. .. .	920
Salvage .. .. .	86
Water Sources examined, protected and/or corrected Investigations re sources and applications for mains	495
Water Analyses :	
Chemical—	
Satisfactory 3	Unsatisfactory 7
Bacteriological—	
Satisfactory 63	Unsatisfactory 59
Milk and Dairies .. .. .	196
Slaughterhouses .. .. .	100
Meatshops, Fish and Fruit Shops, etc. .. .. .	733
Catering Establishments .. .. .	610
Ice Cream Shops .. .. .	204
Bakehouses.. .. .	71
Factories, Workshops, etc. .. .. .	502
Laundries .. .. .	8
Housing Applicants and Selection of Tenants Sub- Committee .. .. .	976
Cesspool Emptying .. .. .	187
Hawkers Stores and Vehicles .. .. .	30
Pet Animals Act .. .. .	2
Smoke Observations and visits .. .. .	12
Miscellaneous .. .. .	233
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	8,897







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